

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SP-02 AID-05 IOE-00
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P R 012046Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 789
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3042

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, CO
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DANIEL L. HOROWITZ, USG REPRESENTATIVE TO ILO

REF: STATE 49411

1. SUMMARY. BRIEF VISIT TO BOGOTA BY HOROWITZ ALLOWED AMPLE TIME FOR FULL DISCUSSIONS ON ILO MATTERS WITH TOP OFFICIALS IN MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (MFR) AND LABOR, AND WITH COLOMBIA'S ALTERNATE WORKER DELEGATE TO GOVERNING BODY. GOC OFFICIALS WHO WERE OBVIOUSLY WELL BRIEFED, NOTED THAT GOC SHARES U.S. CONCERNS OVER RECENT TRENDS IN ILO AND STATED THAT GOC WILL SUPPORT U.S.EFFORTS IN JUNE CONFERENCES. THIS APPEARS TO REPRESENT SHIFT IN GOC POLICY FROM GENERALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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NEUTRAL STANCE TO MORE ACTIVE ROLE WHICH WILL ASSIST U.S. EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. HOROWITZ' MEETING ON MARCH 29 WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL CARLOS BORDA MENDOZA (WHO RANKS JUST AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTER) AND UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES JOAQUIN

FONSECA TRUQUE WAS MOST USEFUL. HOROWITZ OPENED BY GIVING A FULL AND DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE FOUR POINTS OF CONTENTION WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS WITH THE ILO, AND THE THREE SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN IN THE FORTHCOMING JUNE CONFERENCE; I.E. ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT, SPECIFIC RESOLUTION COVERING DUE PROCESS, AND EQUAL TREATMENT IN APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS LABOR CONVENTIONS. BORDA, AFTER LISTENING CAREFULLY, REPLIED BY REITERATING THE FOUR POINTS, AND THEN NOTED THAT THE GOC IS IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. ON THESE MATTERS AND WILL SUPPORT THE U.S. EFFORTS IN THE JUNE CONFERENCE. HE WAS SPECIFIC ON THIS POINT, NOTING THE GOC'S CONCERN THAT ALL ILO MEMBERS BE GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT AND THAT THE ILO ADHERE TO PRESCRIBED INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES.

3. ON WEDNESDAY MORNING HOROWITZ CALLED ON VICE MINISTER OF LABOR ANTONIO CAMPILLO (LABOR MINISTER MONOYA WAS ATTENDING A SOCIAL SECURITY CONFERENCE IN MONTEVIDEO). FOLLOWING HOROWITZ' PRESENTATION OF THE U.S. POSITION, CAMPILLO STATED THAT THE GOC SHARED THE U.S. VIEWS ON THE NECESSITY FOR THE ILO TO FOLLOW CORRECT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES. HE OFFERED THE OPINION THAT ALLOWING ONE COUNTRY TO BE SINGLED OUT AT THIS TIME FOR UNFAIR TREATMENT WOULD OPEN THE DOOR FOR SIMILAR ACTIONS AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE. CAMPILLO SAID IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE ILO TO ADHERE TO ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES AND NOT BE SIDETRACKED BY EXTRANEOUS CONSIDERATIONS. HE LIKE BORDA, STATED THAT THE GOC WOULD SUPPORT U.S. EFFORTS IN THE JUNE CONFERENCE.

4. LATER THAT DAY, AT A LUNCHEON WITH MFA
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UNDERSECRETARIES FERNANDO NAVAS AND JOAQUIN FONSECA, HOROWITZ EXPANDED ON HIS PREVIOUS PRESENTATION TO MFA OFFICIALS. DURING THIS INTERCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE ILO, FONSECA REEMPHASIZED HIS MINISTRY'S SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. POSITION. HE NOTED THAT GOC POLICY IS TO SUPPORT AND FOSTER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE U.N., AND THE GOC DOES NOT WANT TO SEE THESE AGENCIES TURNED INTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY-TYPE FORUMS TO DISCUSS DIVERSE POLITICAL MATTERS. FONSECA NOTED THAT THE GOC DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY BE HEADED BY LABOR MINISTER MONTOYA, WITH GOC AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA AS HIS DEPUTY. HE ASSURED HOROWITZ THAT PROPER INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE ISSUED BY THE MFA.

5. THE CALL ON GUSTAVO DIAZ RAGA, THE ALTERNATE WORKER DELEGATE ON THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, BROUGHT FORTH A STRONG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. DIAZ NOTED THAT COLOMBIAN WORKER DELEGATES TO THE ILO HAVE TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED U.S. EFFORTS TO KEEP POLITICS OUT OF THE ILO, AND THE U.S. COULD REPLY ON THIS SUPPORT AGAIN THIS YEAR. HE ADDED THAT THE COLOMBIAN WORKER AND EMPLOYER DELEGATIONS WOULD MAKE THEIR

SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. VIEWS KNOWN TO THE GOC, IN AN EFFORT
TO INSURE THAT THE GOC ALSO TENDER ITS SUPPORT.

6. COMMENT: THE EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITIONS
IN THE ILO PRESENT A SHIFT IN GOC POLICY. IN THE PAST THE
GOC HAS FOLLOWED A MORE NEUTRAL LINE, GENERALLY ALLOWING
GOC DELEGATIONS TO GO ALONG WITH THE DECISIONS OF THE
GROUP OF 77. WE PLAN TO FOLLOW UP ON TH HOROWITZ
CONVERSATIONS TO ATTEMPT TO INSURE THAT APPROPRIATE
INSTRUCTIONS ARE PROVIDED THE GOC DELEGATION TO THEHE ANNUAL
ILO CONFERENCE.
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Message Attributes

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